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## PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. \_\_\_\_\_

### INVENTOR(S)

Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
James Stacy	Cox	Fayetteville, AR
Walter G.	Madden	New Baltimore, MI

Additional inventors are being named on the \_\_\_\_\_ separately numbered sheets attached hereto.

### TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)

Modular Housing for cats featuring collapsible units for efficient transportation and display and quick connecting rods for construction of varied module habitats.

Direct all correspondence to:

### CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Firm or  
Individual Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mad-Cox Corp.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

2367-1 Green Acres Rd., #139

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City Fayetteville

State AR

ZIP 72703

County USA

Telephone 479-444-0094

Fax 479-444-8673

### ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)

Specification Number of Pages 3

CD(s). Number \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing(s) Number of Sheets 7

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

### METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

FILING FEE  
AMOUNT (\$)

A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees

\$80.00

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by credit card. Form PTO-203B is attached.

The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.

No.

Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

TYPED or PRINTED NAME James Stacy Cox

TELEPHONE 479-444-0094

Date 6/28/02

REGISTRATION NO.  
(if appropriate)  
Docket Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is used by the public to file (and by the PTO to process) a provisional application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 6 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the PTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

**CONFIDENTIAL DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT AND PROCEDURE FOR USE IN ESTABLISHING A PATENT CONCEPTION DATE, REDUCTION TO PRACTICE DATE, AND FOR INCLUSION IN A PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION.**

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The herebefore invention is of unique design and function and nothing similar to it has appeared in the marketplace or has been found in extensive patent search. This product and procedure is the intellectual property of Mr. James Stacy Cox, 2705 Ida Lindsey Dr., #11, Fayetteville, AR 72703, and Walter G. Madden, 30211 Timberidge Cr., #204, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Conception date was 1/15/2002 and documented April 23, 2002. Construction of prototype was achieved May 20, 2002, and was publicly displayed at the APPMA Pet Products Show, in Chicago, IL on June 12, 2002.

This product's purpose is to offer an alternative to cat owners for providing unique and imaginative housing, lounging, and entertainment venues for their pets at less cost than comparable products. Currently, the market provides rigid one, two, and three story "condos", as well as pre-constructed "trees" offering a variety of perches, toys, housings, and scratching post options. A consumer must purchase each of these units whole and are given no viable alternative or option for adding or deleting from the structure without damaging it, or precariously stacking the units one upon the other.

Another fault of the current products to the retailer is that, due to the rigid construction of the units, a great deal of "empty air" is unavoidable in the shipping of the products, causing excessive transportation costs. The proposed product will reduce the transportation costs, when compared to the products, by as much as 80%.

The invention is unique in that it provides a housing unit for cats that is similar to like products, (wood and cardboard constructed, covered in luxurious carpeting), but is not rigidly built. As seen in Figures 4, 5, and 6, the side exterior walls of the structure are constructed of heavy cardboard panels that are glued to burlap backed carpeting strips. The carpeting acts as a hinge between the cardboard panels so as to allow the structure to fold flat or to unfold into a cubic form for construction of the housing unit. As shown in Figures 2 and 3, flooring and roof panels constructed from wood and carpet are then able to clip into place in the top and bottom of the opened wall unit to provide a complete cube unit as shown in Figure 1.

Transportation advantages are attained by folding the side-wall unit completely closed and placing the roof and ceiling panels adjacent to it, forming a solid stack that can be packaged with little "empty air". Shipping savings would be substantial for the manufacturer or retailer. This design also allows the retailer to warehouse and store the product in less space, freeing valuable space for other products and displays.

Figure 2, (D), also diagrams the aspect of this design that makes it totally unique in the industry. Each base floor and ceiling unit has four circular holes drilled through the board in each corner. This allows for the insertion of modular rods to be placed through the holes. This, in turn, allows for the construction of a wide variety of modular unit designs that is only limited by the architect's imagination.

As shown in Figure's 10 and 11, two lengths of rods are needed. The Figure 11 rod, or base rod, is installed in all ground level units, as shown in Figure 12, or as ground level pillars, as shown in Figure 16. (C). The longer rods, Figure 10, referred to as modular rods, are used in all upper story construction of units that are second story or above. Figure 7 depicts column caps, Figure 8, column spacers, and Figure 9, column connectors, that are used in the assembly process.

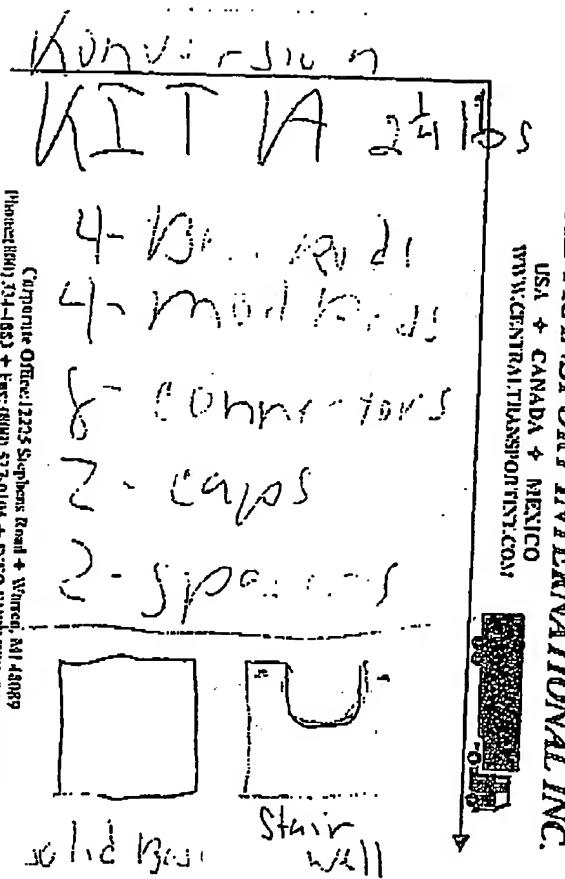
Figure 12 depicts how the rods are assembled inside each housing unit. The connector pieces, (A), having a greater diameter than the corresponding holes, (XX), act as support to the ceiling panels while providing access to the modular rods. Figure 13 depicts how the modular rods can be connected to the base rods to form the structure for a second level.

As seen in Figure 14, another assembled base unit can be slid over the four modular rods to form a second level to the unit. Figure 15 depicts how the two story "habitat" can then be transformed into a three story structure. Current products allow for no options as this product does. To progress from one, to two, to three story units, the consumer must purchase each unit separately. Due to the columnar construction of our design, a great deal of stability and strength is achieved but also allows for quick construction and breakdown for transporting.

Figure 16 foretells the total uniqueness of this product and its potential for success in the marketplace. A consumer will have the option of purchasing one base unit alone and provide a sanctuary for their cat, (Fig. 1). But, if they wish, they may purchase a conversion kit that consists of 4 base rods, 4 modular rods, 2 spacers, and 2 caps, that will allow them to purchase another base unit and construct a 2-story, split-level, front patio, or rear deck structure. By purchasing another conversion kit and base unit, the lucky cat owner can construct the unit depicted in Fig. 16, 3 rooms, 2 carports, a courtyard, and 2 sundecks. Another base unit and conversion kit acquisition enables the owner to add on another room and sundeck, as depicted in Figure 17.

As seen in Figure 16, C, base rods are utilized to form the pillars needed to support the split-level wings. Caps, (B), at the top of the base units provide stability and "set" the base/modular rods.

There is no limit to the designs and "floor-plans" that the innovative cat owner can create for their feline, whether horizontally, vertically, or with depth. This is true modular living for cats. Numerous accessories are also planned for selection, including, ramps and bridges that connect the doorways. Hammocks, toys, curtains, sisal posts, etc., can be easily attached to the modular columns to offer an endless variety of add-ons to this kitty cat habitat. Dozens of floor-plans available for the kitty with discriminating tastes.



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